

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 30, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 2. Claims 13-22 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 5-22 are currently pending, with claims 1 and 13 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith, U.S. Patent No. 6,144,162 (Hereinafter "Smith").

Smith teaches monitoring degradation of less than all of the pixels in a polymer display. In particular, and as described in his Abstract:

... [degradation] may be monitored and the uniformity of the display may be adjusted by either overdriving a given pixel or reducing the light output of other pixels in the display. In this way, the display's lifetime may be maximized without incurring pixel non-uniformity.

Smith addresses a problem common to polymer displays which have light emitting layers that are semiconductive polymers: non-uniform degradation of individual pixels whereby some pixels have reduced brightness over time. Smith's invention uses reverse biased polymer layers to detect light emitted by other layers. Once reduced light output levels have been identified, he then calibrates the display by overdriving appropriate pixels to increase their light output (Col. 3, lines 12-27). In this manner more uniform light is attained in the display and the life of the display is extended.

The present invention relates to measuring one or more electrical parameters of a display device to determine impending failure. In particular, claim 1 reads:

1. Display system comprising at least one display device, the display system comprising:

an indicator to indicate an impending failure of the display device;
a means for measuring an electrical property of said display device; and,
a means for comparing the value of the measured electrical property to a reference value and, dependent on the result of the comparison, actuating said indicator.

As an initial matter, Smith fails to teach a means for measuring an electrical property of the display device (e.g., current and capacitance of claims 7 and 8, respectively). Smith merely teaches a means of measuring light output of levels of a display device.

Further, Smith fails to teach how this measured light output is compared to a reference value to actuate a failure indicator. The Office Action points to col. 5, line 57 to col. 6, line 8 of Smith as teaching this feature. This passage references Fig. 7's depiction of "a hypothetical graph [emphasis added] of light output level versus time" (col. 5, lines 64-65) to somehow infer when a failure is imminent. While failing to show how any current is actually measured, Smith then predicts an imminent failure when "the slope [of the drive current curve] abruptly changes" (col. 6, lines 5-6). Consequently, Smith fails to teach the feature of the present invention whereby a measured electrical property is compared to a reference value.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element recited therein is expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Smith cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Smith fails to disclose each and every element recited. As shown, Smith fails to disclose the limitation of "measuring an electrical property" of the display

device. Further, he fails to teach how that measurement is "compared to a reference value" to activate an indicator of imminent failure.

Having shown that Smith fails to disclose each and every element claimed, applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over Smith. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1.

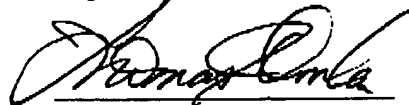
With regard to claims 3 and 5-12, these claims ultimately depend from claim 1, which have been shown to be not anticipated and allowable in view of the cited reference. Accordingly, claims 3 and 5-12 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

With regard to new claims 13-22, Applicant has added the feature that the device is a liquid crystal display device. As Smith's means of measuring light output is incompatible with such a display device, Smith is not a valid reference against these new claims. Accordingly, these claims are patentable over the Smith reference.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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